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Riddle of Oswald

Startling conclusions based on expert knowledge of Soviets

STATINTL

Edward Ellis Smith, author of the startling revelations about Lee Harvey Oswald in the series of articles beginning in today's Times, believes the accused assassin was a Soviet agent, although not acting on orders when he shot President John F. Kennedy.

Smith, 43, of 1849 Webster St., Palo Alto, is an authority on the Russian secret police and a former Army, State Department and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) security-intelligence officer.

He possesses an extensive knowledge of Soviet affairs, speaks Russian fluently and has lived in Moscow several years, where he was the State Department's first full-time embassy security officer.

Smith began collecting all the information available about Oswald from a wide variety of publications immediately after the murder in Dallas of President Kennedy.

SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE

To this information, he has applied his own specialized knowledge of Soviet affairs, especially in the realms of security and intelligence. The results are fascinating and extremely plausible.

Smith was born on Aug. 31, 1921, in Parkersburg, W. Va. He attended public schools there and later entered West Virginia University. He was a Phi Beta

Kappa political science graduate in 1939. He also was an honor graduate in military science and tactics.

He joined the Army in 1943 and saw infantry combat in France, Germany and Austria with the 3rd Army. He was decorated with the bronze star three times for valor in ground combat. He attained the rank of captain and was an infantry commander, instructor and combat officer.

After the war, Smith served briefly in Supreme Allied Headquarters, then in 1946 was returned to the Pentagon and assigned as chief of the political-economic Russian section in G-2 (intelligence).

Later that year he was sent to the Naval Intelligence Language School to study Russian. In 1948, he was posted at the American Embassy, Moscow, as assistant military attache and assistant economic attache with the dual responsibility of keeping abreast of and reporting on internal military and economic developments.

Smith remained in Moscow until 1950, when he again was summoned home to the Pentagon and placed on detached service with an intelligence unit.

FOREIGN SERVICE

In 1953, Smith — then Maj. Smith — resigned his regular Army commission and entered the State Department as a foreign service staff officer. He was assigned to the office of security of the department in Washington, D.C.

Early in 1954, the State Department sent Smith back to Moscow, where he was appointed the department's first full-time security officer of the American Embassy. As such, he was responsible for the physical and personnel security of the embassy.

He returned to Washington in mid-1958, and shortly thereafter resigned his foreign service commission and joined the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), specializing in Russian affairs.

In 1958, he was assigned to a research project at Stanford's Hoover Institution. His job was to search czarist and Soviet

police and intelligence matters. Smith resigned from the CIA in late 1962 to embark on a new career of independent writing and lecturing. He has two books in preparation now: "The Russian Secret Police," to be published this summer by the Hoover Institution, and "Sialia and the Terror" (tentative), scheduled for publication next year by a private publisher.



Edward Ellis Smith

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